

Ascension Saint Alexius

FY25 Annual Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Ascension



The purpose of this report is to describe how the hospital meets the requirements outlined in the State of Illinois Community Benefits Act and Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act. This annual report of community benefits is public information, filed with the Attorney General and available to the public on request from the Attorney General.

Ascension Saint Alexius

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Hospital EIN/Tax ID: 36-4195126

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Introduction

As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to individuals and communities who are at increased risk for poor health outcomes or experiencing social factors that place them at risk.

Ascension Saint Alexius

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Saint Alexius is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to the Village of Hoffman Estates and the surrounding communities. Serving Illinois since 1979, Ascension Saint Alexius is continuing the long and valued tradition of addressing the health of the people in our community, following in the footsteps of legacy Alexian Brothers, a Roman Catholic order.

Saint Alexius includes the Women & Children's Hospital on its Hoffman Estates campus as well as 24/7 level II trauma emergency care, advanced surgical care including heart, vascular and orthopedics.

For more information about Ascension Saint Alexius, visit:

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/illinois/ilchi/hoffman-estates-ascension-saint-alexius>

Ascension Mission Statement

Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.

This statement was adopted on April 1, 2022.

Community Benefits Report

Community Benefits Provided

Below are the financial community benefits provided by the hospital during the fiscal year of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Total Financial Assistance (Emergency & Non-Emergency Care at cost)	\$5,275,374
Emergency Department Financial Assistance (at cost)	\$1,365,917
All other Community Benefits including: Government Sponsored Care, Language Assistance Services, Cash & In-Kind Donations, Health Professions Education, Research, Subsidized Health Services, Total Volunteer Services (employee & non-employee), other Government-Sponsored Program Services, Bad Debts, Other Community Benefits not detailed in the Annual Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report instructions.	\$84,050,133
Total Community Benefits for Ascension Saint Alexius	\$89,325,507

Other Benefits:

Listed above are "Other Community Benefits." These are benefits not detailed in the Annual Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report instructions.

Other Community Benefits categories include Community Building Activities and Community Benefit Operations. The IRS 990 Schedule H instructions and the Catholic Health Association (CHA) publication, A Guide for Planning & Reporting Community Benefit, both identify these categories in their materials. Listed below is the detail associated with these categories.

Community-Building Activities

Community-building activities improve the community's health and safety by addressing the root causes of health problems, such as poverty, homelessness and environmental hazards. These activities strengthen the community's capacity to promote the health and well-being of its residents by offering the expertise and resources of the health care organization. Costs for these activities include

cash and in-kind donations and expenses for the development of a variety of programs and partnerships. This category includes activities such as:

- Physical improvements and housing
- Economic development
- Community support
- Environmental improvements
- Community leadership development & training
- Coalition building
- Advocacy for community health improvement & safety
- Workforce development

Community-building is documented on Part II of the IRS 990 Schedule H.

Community Benefit Operations

Community benefit operations include costs associated with assigned staff and community health needs and/or assets assessments, as well as other costs associated with community benefit strategy and operations. This category includes items such as:

- Assigned staff
- Community health needs/health assets assessments
- Other resources

Community benefit operations are documents on Part 1 7a of the IRS 990 Schedule H.

Financial Assistance

As part of our faith-based mission, Ascension Illinois is dedicated to helping the most vulnerable and treating everyone with compassion, dignity and respect. Financial assistance reflects our commitment to and reverence for individual human dignity and the common good, our special concern for and solidarity with persons living in poverty and other vulnerable persons, and our commitment to distributive justice and stewardship.

A copy of our Financial Assistance Policy can be found here:

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/financial-assistance/illinois-ascension-illinois-financial-assistance>

During the fiscal year, Ascension Saint Alexius collected the following data on financial assistance applications:

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Approved and Denied Applications</i>	<i>Number of Applications</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Total submitted (complete & incomplete)	637
	Approved	345
	Denied	292

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Financial Assistance Denial Reason</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Failed to Provide Requested Documentation	193
	Income/Assets Exceed Guidelines	16
	Patient Residing Outside Service Area	81
	Program/Policy Eligibility Not Satisfied	2

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Female	338
	Male	299
	Not Available	0
	Not Provided	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Preferred Language</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Spanish	119
	Not Provided	173
	Not Available	151

Ukrainian	3
English	124
Romanian	1
Arabic/Kurdish	2
Bulgarian	1
Gujarati	24
Hindi	10
Polish	9
Mandarin/Chinese	2
Portuguese	1
Russian	7
Tagalog	10

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Not Provided	250
	Not Available	137
	White	175
	Black or African American	8
	Asian Indian	46
	Other Pacific Islander	1
	Native Hawaiian	0
	Other Asian	7
	Filipino	11
	Chinese	2
	American Indian	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Not Provided	367
	Not Available	135
	Hispanic-Latino/a-or Spanish origin	81
	Mexican-Mexican American-Chicano/a	45
	Another Hispanic-Latino/a or Spanish Origin	8
	Puerto Rican	1

During the fiscal year, **Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center** collected the following data on screening for financial assistance.

Facility Name	Screening	Number
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Total Number of Uninsured Patients who have declined or failed to respond to financial assistance screening	2,107

Facility Name	Screening Declination Reasons	Number
Ascension Saint Alexius Medical Center	Prefer not to respond	1,091
	Other	641
	Prefer not to share income information	308
	Prefer not to apply due to personal beliefs	41
	Previously applied for assistance and denied	26

Our screening process for uninsured patients includes the following items to ensure we are educating patients at the earliest possible moment of financial assistance options:

- Patients are made aware of Financial Assistance during initial registration and pre-services work.
- Financial Assistance documents are widely publicized online, signage about financial assistance availability is posted at all registration locations and copies of the Plain Language Summary of the Financial Assistance Policy are available at all registration points.
- Onsite as well as telephonic customer service assistance is available to assist patients with any Financial Assistance application questions.
- Patients are prompted with the following during their pre-registration or Point of Service registration self-service technology check-in: “Would you like to apply for Financial Assistance today?”
 - If they respond “Yes”, the technology directs them to a Registrar to receive an application.
 - If they respond “No”, they are prompted to indicate a declination reason.
- During the self-service registration check-in, uninsured patients are prompted with the Patient Financial Advocacy questionnaire, which screens for public health insurance and other paying funding solutions. This occurs pre-service for scheduled patients.

Additional Point of Service, in-house, and post-discharge screening efforts occur through manual workstreams as described below:

- Emergency Department Registrar screenings occur in-house post-Medical Screening Exam (MSE).
- Emergency Department Patient Financial Advocacy questionnaire is sent to patients electronically post-visit if not captured during their visit.
- Financial Counselors screen inpatients bedside.
- Financial Counselors perform follow-up outreach via a combination of phone calls and letters to patients who are still unscreened after their visit.
- If an uninsured patient does not qualify for a paying funding solution to pursue, the Financial Counselors will inform the patient of Financial Assistance and steps to apply.

Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA)

Federal law requires tax-exempt hospitals to conduct periodic Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) and adopt plans to meet assessed needs. In order to comply with federal tax-exemption requirements in the Affordable Care Act, a tax-exempt hospital facility must: 1) conduct a community health needs assessment every three years, 2) adopt an implementation strategy, and 3) report how identified needs not being addressed by the hospital are still being targeted by other community organizations.

Each Ascension Health hospital ministry follows the following guidelines for Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs):

- Each ministry will conduct a CHNA every three years by involving community partners and members representing diverse sectors within the community.
- There will be an annual review and update of the ministry's CHNA Implementation Strategy highlighting the outcomes of community benefit programs that target prioritized needs.
- Monthly reporting of community benefit is required to local and system leadership.

Complete Community Health Needs Assessment reports for each hospital are made publicly available at: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna> and paper versions can be requested at Ascension Saint Alexius' Administration Office.

Prioritized Community Needs

Included in Code Section 501(r)(3) is the requirement that hospitals must provide a description of the process and criteria used to determine the most significant health needs of the community identified through the CHNA, along with a description of the process and criteria used to determine the prioritized needs to be addressed by the hospital. Accordingly, Ascension Saint Alexius used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs with the hospital community. The first step was to determine the broader set of identified needs. Through the CHNA assessment, identified needs were then narrowed to a set of significant needs which were determined most crucial for community stakeholders to address.

Following the completion of the CHNA assessment, significant needs were further narrowed down to a set of prioritized needs that the hospital will address within the implementation strategy.

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension Saint Alexius has selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its Implementation Strategy. Ascension has defined “prioritized needs” as the significant needs which have been prioritized by the hospital to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- **Healthcare Access & Affordability (*Access to Care - Clinical Care*):** Individuals in the community face major barriers in obtaining necessary medical care including lack of affordable medical care (including dental and vision) and medications, difficulties navigating insurance, and long wait times for specialists. 61% of community survey respondents cited lack of access to care as a major issue that includes concerns for long wait times for specialist appointments, high costs, and difficulties navigating insurance benefits. Participants said high insurance costs limit access to medical services including necessary medications and dental services, while many are unclear about their eligibility for healthcare coverage. Community partners noted barriers such as economic constraints, limited healthcare services, and cultural/language challenges for individuals in the community.
- **Mental Health & Youth Well-Being (*Mental Health - Quality of Life*):** Mental health concerns, including depression and anxiety, were frequently identified as top health priorities. The PSA has a lower mental health provider rate, particularly bilingual and culturally competent professionals, compared to county and national levels, creating significant barriers to care. Social media impact, stress, depression, bullying, vaping, and lack of school-based mental health support are pressing youth concerns. Mental health was a top concern (33.0%) in community surveys with 42% cited difficulty accessing mental health services & lack of school-based counseling; community partners also expressed that mental health challenges were one of the most pressing community issues, especially services for Limited English Proficient individuals. 40.3% of respondents cited social media as a major concern for youth; 37.1% reported high stress levels among youth due to academic and financial pressures. Community partners highlighted teen birth rates exceeding county, state, and national averages, particularly in Streamwood.
- **Chronic Disease (*Diabetes, Obesity, Heart Disease - Chronic Conditions*):** Chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease were identified as key health concerns. The prevalence of diabetes in Elgin (60120: 12.8%, 60123: 12.3%) is higher than state and national averages. Preventive health screenings, including colorectal cancer and mammograms, fall below Healthy People 2030 targets. Diabetes (35.1%) and heart disease/stroke (26.9%) were top health concerns on the community input survey. Respondents noted difficulty in managing chronic diseases due to healthcare access barriers as well as difficulty accessing health food options, diabetes education resources, screenings and heart-related medications. Access to community services (41%) was emphasized by respondents including the need for wellness programs (including weight loss, nutrition and fitness including senior & bilingual offerings), transportation support, and better outreach about existing services.
- **Social Determinants of Health (*Income - SDoH & Housing - SDoH*):** The social determinants of health of food insecurity and housing instability challenges were identified as top two contributors to poor health outcomes. These barriers disproportionately impact underserved

communities. Food insecurity remains a pressing issue, particularly in Elgin, Palatine, and Hanover Park. Access to affordable and nutritious food is a barrier for many, impacting chronic disease rates. Rising housing costs and economic disparities contribute to housing instability. 33% of survey respondents cited food insecurity a top concern, particularly in areas with high poverty rates. Community partners noted food insecurity as the most pressing health issue. Partners expressed concern over affordability and access to fresh and nutritious foods for families managing chronic illnesses and relying on food assistance programs. Survey respondents shared concerns about eviction risks and a lack of affordable housing options; 21% of survey respondents cited housing affordability as a major concern and stressor; Focus group participants said the rising cost of living has not been reflected in wage increases.

Ascension Saint Alexius understands the importance of all the health needs of the community and is committed to playing an active role in improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. For the purposes of this implementation strategy, Ascension Alexius has chosen to focus its efforts on the priorities listed above.

Written Comments

This annual report has been made available to the public and is open for public comment. Questions or comments about this implementation strategy can be submitted via the email:

ilarl.communitybenefit@ascension.org

Community Implementation Strategies

These strategies and action plans represent where the hospital will focus its community efforts over the next three years, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. While these remain a priority, the hospital will continue to offer additional programs and services to meet the needs of the community, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

STRATEGY #1: PROVIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT SERVICES	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Healthcare Access & Affordability	
Objective By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with healthcare enrollment services from FY25 baseline.	
Strategy Advocatia Partnership	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): Leader and staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group (AMG), Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, Libraries, Immigrant Welcoming Centers	Collaborators: in-kind space for events, promotion of services
Consultants: Advocatia and/or other healthcare enrollment partners	Consultants: Advocatia program platform & consultants, data
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocatia Technology and Consultation Fees 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness of services via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health, External Communications
Identify external partners that need enrollment information	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Identify and establish opportunities for enrollment in the community	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	

The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.

STRATEGY #2: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MEDICATION ASSISTANCE SERVICES	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Healthcare Access & Affordability	
Objective By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with medication assistance services from FY25 baseline.	
Strategy Dispensary of Hope Program	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group, Community Based Organization, Faith Based Institutions, local physicians	Collaborators: pharmacy staff, promotion of services
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensary of Hope Program Fees 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness of pharmacy services via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community partner newsletters	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius Pharmacy, Ascension Illinois Marketing/Communications
Identify external partners that need medication assistance information.	Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to medications for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.	

STRATEGY #3: PROVIDE ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE SERVICES	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Healthcare Access & Affordability	
Objective By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with access to prenatal services from FY25 baseline.	
Strategy Greater Family Health Partnership	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Greater Family Health	Collaborators: care coordination of prenatal services, data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual community investment 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify external partners that provide prenatal services	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide support and assistance for needed services	Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to prenatal services and referrals for individuals in need of prenatal care.	

STRATEGY #4: PROVIDE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (CRC)	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Healthcare Access & Affordability	
Objective By June 30, 2028, establish a Community Resource Center (CRC) that will provide a structured framework for connecting individuals and families with needed resources & services.	
Strategy Community Resource Center (CRC)	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers and Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	Other Ascension hospital(s): Staff time donated, community investment, donated space within 1515 Lake Street building
Collaborators: Partners for Our Communities, Greater Family Health, CEDA, Community Based Organizations, School District, Park District	Collaborators: care coordination; data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community investment(s) • Cost of in-kind space • Cost of in-kind staff support • Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify framework for Community Resource Center (CRC)	Ascension Saint Alexius & Ascension Alexian Brothers
Identify external partners that may have a need for support and resources.	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Community Benefit, Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers
Establish Community Resource Center (CRC) Collaborative Committee	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Create project timeline for Community Resource Center (CRC)	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius and Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes.	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to community resources, services and referrals for individuals in need of services in the community.	

STRATEGY #5: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #2 Mental Health	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increased access to mental health assessments, services, education and resources through the Emergency Department (ED) Annex Clinical Support initiative.	
Strategy Emergency Department (ED) Annex	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: TBD	Collaborators: TBD
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of in-kind staff support • Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital & Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting ED Annex	Ascension Saint Alexius ED, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Provide orientation on workflows that allow for more access, safety and privacy	Ascension Saint Alexius ED, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Orient and train internal team members on services and workflow	Ascension Saint Alexius ED, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health services and resources for individuals that present to the ED experiencing mental health symptoms or crisis.	

STRATEGY#6: CHRONIC CONDITION SCREENING, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #3 Chronic Disease	
Objective By June 30, 2028, there will be increased access to health screenings and education for community residents.	
Strategy Community & Faith Community Wellness Program	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and other supplies
Collaborators: Park Districts, Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries, Townships	Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated; space for events; promotion of events
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of in-kind staff support Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting community wellness programming	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify external partners serving low-income and/or at risk persons that need community health screening and health education services	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
Establish community calendar of health screening and health education events including dates, times, and locations	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness of health education and screenings via flyers, social media, e-newsletters, meeting with community partners	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Illinois External Communications
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to health screening services and increased knowledge of chronic condition risk factors among high risk populations.	

STRATEGY #7: FOOD ACCESS ASSISTANCE	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #4 Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Food Security)	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increase community support for local food pantries, increase food access partnerships and increase the number of individuals provided with food access assistance.	
Strategy Local Food Assistance Support & Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Micropantry ● School Backpack Program ● Mobile Produce Program of Faith & Food Initiative ● Community Investment Program 	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Greater Chicago Food Depository, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Willow Creek Care Center, local food pantries, Faith Based Institutions	Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated; resources/materials; promotion of programs
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Investments ● Cost of in-kind staff support ● Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS <i>Micropantry</i>	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify food-drive event dates	Ascension Saint Alexius Volunteer Department
Identify potential community partners to support maintenance of MicroPantry	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ACTION STEPS <i>School Backpack Program</i>	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local schools that will participate in program	Ascension Illinois Community Health and Northern Illinois Food Bank
Provide funding support for program	Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ACTION STEPS <i>Mobile Produce Program of Faith & Food Program</i>	ROLE/OWNER

Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local faith institutions that will participate in program	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide funding and distribution support for program	Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ACTION STEPS <i>Community Investment Program</i>	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local food pantries in need of financial support	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius Community Investment Committee
Identify internal resources to support food pantry initiatives (i.e. food drives, nutrition education and training)	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.	

STRATEGY #8: HOUSING ASSISTANCE	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #4 Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Housing & Transit)	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increase support for individuals in need of housing assistance in the Ascension Saint Alexius community.	
Strategy Local Housing Assistance Support & Partnerships	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment
Collaborators: Fellowship Housing, Little Sisters of the Poor St. Joseph Home for the Elderly	Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated, data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual community investments • In-kind support 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local housing assistance partners including those in need of financial support	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius Community Investment Committee
Identify internal resources to support local housing assistance initiatives	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to safe and affordable housing to improve overall health.	

STRATEGY #9: TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Alexius	
Prioritized Health Need #4 Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Housing & Transit)	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increase support for individuals in need of transportation assistance in the Ascension Saint Alexius community.	
Strategy LYFT Concierge Services Partnership	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment
Collaborators: Lyft Concierge Services	Collaborators: transportation services & platform, data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concierge Service Fees 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify patients (i.e., uninsured, underinsured, VA, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.) in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Care Management
Cover costs of Lyft Concierge Services (LCS) monthly/annual service fees for identified patients within parameters allowed under applicable law	Ascension Saint Alexius
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthcare services by eliminating transportation barriers.	

Complete Implementation Strategy reports for each hospital are made publicly available at: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna> and paper versions can be requested at Ascension Saint Alexius' Administration Office.

Community Implementation Strategy & Health Equity Progress

During the fiscal year, the following was progress achieved on its implementation strategies or other activities the hospital is undertaking to address health equity, reduce health disparities and improve community health. Please note this list is not intended to be comprehensive of all activities the hospital is undertaking, but to highlight initiatives of interest.

Community Need:	Strategy & Progress
Social & Structural Determinants of Health Initiatives	<p>Strategy: Increase food access assistance for food insecure individuals for community residents.</p> <p>Progress: During the applicable tax year through co-hosting mobile produce mobiles, 1,600 persons were served with 26,664 meals in the community. The hospital also hosted an on-site 24/7 emergency food micro pantry which resulted in 2,600 meals or 3,120 pounds of food annually provided. The hospital also sought to increase donations to food bank and pantry community partners, which resulted in \$10,000 in donations for the applicable tax year towards food access.</p> <p>Strategy: Provide transportation services for patients and community residents</p> <p>Progress: During the tax year, over 911 persons were screened for transportation assistance and provided with rides.</p> <p>Strategy: Provide support to transitional housing community based organizations.</p> <p>Progress: During the applicable tax year, 43 families at Fellowship Housing, a local community based housing organization, continued to be assisted through hospital funding support.</p>
Access to Care and Community Resources Initiatives	<p>Strategy: Increase food access assistance for food insecure individuals for community residents.</p> <p>Progress: During the applicable tax year through co-hosting mobile produce mobiles, 1,600 persons were served with 26,664 meals in the community. The hospital also hosted an on-site 24/7 emergency food micro pantry which resulted in 2,600 meals or 3,120 pounds of food annually provided. The hospital also sought to increase donations to food bank and pantry community partners, which resulted in \$10,000 in donations for the applicable tax year towards food access.</p>

	<p>Strategy: Provide transportation services for patients and community residents Progress: During the tax year, over 911 persons were screened for transportation assistance and provided with rides.</p> <p>Strategy: Provide support to transitional housing community based organizations. Progress: During the applicable tax year, 43 families at Fellowship Housing, a local community based housing organization, continued to be assisted through hospital funding support.</p>
<p>Prevention and Treatment of Priority Conditions Initiatives</p>	<p>Strategy: Implement strategies to address maternal health disparities and promote birth equity (BE). Progress: During the applicable tax year, screening of birthing patients on health related social needs was implemented as part of routine practice and workflows were created to support patients. In addition, a three-year clinical priority goal to reduce severe obstetric complications in patients with medium-high and high social vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Strategy: Provide Emergency Department (ED) Annex Clinical Support Initiative Progress: During the tax year, an Emergency Department Annex dedicated to mental health patients was provided resulting in 2,597 persons served.</p> <p>Strategy: Provide access to health screenings and health education for community residents. Progress: During the applicable tax year, 7,050 community members were provided with health education and 4,390 community members were provided with health screenings.</p>
<p>Community Support (Investing) Initiatives</p>	<p>Strategy: Standardization of Community Investment Alignment Progress: Guidelines for community investment criteria to guide outgoing contributions to the community were established across Ascension hospitals late in the fiscal year that became effective July 1, 2023. A system-wide goal of 95% of all community investments alignment with at least two of six criteria points including: Strategic Priority, CHNA/Implementation Strategy Plan, Improved Health Outcomes or Laudato Si' environmental improvements. At the close of FY25 on June 30, 2025, 98% of the hospital's community investments aligned with the criteria established.</p>

<p>Purchasing & Hiring Initiatives</p>	<p>Strategy: Local Procurement Progress: Ascension has guidelines towards local supplier procurement as possible in alignment with strategic sourcing.</p> <p>Strategy: SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Recommendations) Progress: Our SOAR action planning focuses on efforts for improvement in our associate engagement. The Associate Engagement Survey and the SOAR process is conducted and performed annually with evaluation and modified throughout the year. This process is guided by Executive and Senior Leadership with implementation and evaluation by Department Leaders.</p> <p>Strategy: Workforce Development Progress: In September 2023, Ascension launched a proactive workforce development team of managers who strategically sit under human resources in the organizational effectiveness space within the Center for Career Advancement. The center focuses on preparing, recruiting, retaining, and enhancing the skills of individuals in the healthcare professions to meet the evolving needs of the patients and communities. Goals include addressing challenges like workforce shortages, skill mismatches, diversity gaps, and technology integration. The workforce development managers are proactive in collaborating on local workforce development programs, partnering with key leaders and stakeholders to identify new program needs or improvement of existing programs, functioning as an intermediary between local chambers of commerce and community organizations, seeking local and federal funding opportunities, developing and over-seeing high school work-based learning programs through career exploration, job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, and collaborating with community colleges through advisory councils and increased student clinical opportunities.</p>
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Appendix

Hospital Net Patient Revenue Report

Ascension Illinois	
Net Revenue	
For the Twelve Months Ended	
June 30, 2025	
	SA
Net Patient Service Revenue	\$374,002,334
Add Back Charity	\$27,251,648
AG Reported Net Patient Service Revenue	\$401,253,982